Sub-Plan it is for the state Government to increase the flow to Tribal Sub-Plan from the State Plan resources under Tribal Sub-Plan strategy for implementing various projects/schemes of tribal welfare. As for enlarging the scope of the existing schemes, the Central Government may consider the same, if specific, detailed proposals with proper justification are sent in respect of each scheme by the State Government.

Scheme for Mentally Handicapped

3595. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched the National Pilot Project for early intervention for mentally retarded children;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) whether Government have received representations from Andhra Pradesh for improving the schemes for mentally handicapped people; and

(d) if so, the details of such representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Pilot Project is formulated by Central Institute on Mental Retardation, Kerala, with the support of grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Deptt. of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The objetives of the project are:

(1) to integrate the mentally retarded child in the family and community;

(2) make early intervention in the lives of mentally retarded children and provide them early development inputs;

(3) prepare the mentally retarded to receive further develomental and vocational education;

(4) train professionals to work in the field; and

(5) create awareness in society to bring focus on the mentally retarded.

The project is launched in six States, namely, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

VRCs to assess the redidual ability of disabled in Gujarat

3596. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) in Gujarat to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange for their training and provide them employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Centre-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set-up some more VRCs in the State in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are two Vocational Rehabilitation Centres in Gujarat located one each in Ahmedabad and Vadodara. The Centre at Vadodara exclusively caters the needs of the women disabled.

(c) and (d) At present, Vocational Rehabilitation Centres are not established in all the States/UTs. Therefore, attempts are being made to establish at least one Vocational Rehabilitation

Centre in the States and Union Territories where such Centre does not exist.

Amendment of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act

3597. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a news-item appeared in "The Times of India", New Delhi edition dated 27th May, 1998 under the caption "NGOs urge Government to withdraw impractical clauses" of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Expert Committee has been constituted to look into the various provisions of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act requiring amendments.

Central Assistance for Special Component Plan for SC

3598. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of special central assistance of Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes is under implementation for the last five years;

(b) whether the evaluation of the scheme is conducted from time to time; and

(c) the number of persons who had been covered under these schemes, particularly people of remote area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Research Studies on utilisation of Special Central Assistance one in U.P. and the other in Rajasthan covering the period 1992—96 have already been got conducted. Evaluation Studies of Special Central Assistance funded schemes in 7 States have been entrusted to National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai in March, 1998.

(c) 119.79 lakhs SC families including families in rural/remote areas in 24 States/UTs have been covered under various economic development schemes/ programmes for SCs during the last five years.

Special Central Assistance for SCs in Maharashtra

3599. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing special central assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) in what way the plan has helped the Scheduled Castes of the State; and

(d) the other welfare measures being taken by Government for the Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Special Central Assistance released during the last three years are given below: